

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air a patently political "documentary" which is in reality a political hit piece against only one candidate, John Kerry, days before the election is a violation of the public airwaves and a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies with partisan objectives control the airwaves, we get only what serves their financial or political interest. That this current effort masquerades as a "news" item only serves to show that ethics is no part of their consideration.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.